

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EUR-25 NIC-01 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 SCA-01

DRC-01 /163 W

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R 252120Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 431

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

US MISSION GENEVA 491

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5843

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS, SHUM

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF "DAWSON ISLAND" DETAINEES

REF: SANTIAGO 5630

1. KNOWLEDGEABLE FON MIN OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 25 ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PRESSED GOC TO RELEASE LUIS CORVALAN, SECRETARY OF CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY, WHO IS MEMBER OF "DAWSON ISLAND" GROUP OF SENIOR ALLENDE REGIME LEADERS HELD SINCE SEPTEMBER 1973 COUP. OFFICIAL SAID GOC WILL NOT RPT NOT RELEASE CORVALAN, BUT HE EXPECTED OTHERS OF DAWSON GROUP TO BE RELEASED SOON. SAID FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER CLODIMIRO ALMEYDA ALSO WILL STAY IMPRISONED, SINCE HE IS UNDER CIVIL COURT CHARGES OF EMBEZZLEMENT (REFTEL).

2. COMMENT: FON MIN IS NOT BEST SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON FATE OF DAWSON ISLAND DETAINEES, BUT SIGNIFICANT THAT OFFICIAL TAKES FOR GRANTED RELEASE OF SOME SOON. CORVALAN MAY NOT BE RELEASED AT REQUEST OF ITALIANS; DISPOSITION OF HIS CASE MAY BE MOST DIFFICULT SINGLE DETAINEE PROBLEM GOVT HAS. ON OTHER HAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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GOC MIGHT FIND IT EXPEDIENT TO LET ALMEYDA GO, EVEN IF HE WERE TO BE

CONVICTED OF MINOR WHITE COLLAR CRIME.

3. OFFICIAL MADE COMMENTS AFTER EMBOFF ASKED HIM ABOUT
GOC-ITALIAN RELATIONS, HAVING HEARD SEPT 24 FROM WESTERN
AMBASSADOR THAT NUMBER OF CHILEAN "GUESTS" OF ITALIAN EMBASSY
RECENTLY ROSE TO 120. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT JUST KEEP COMING
OVER THE WALLS.

POPPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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